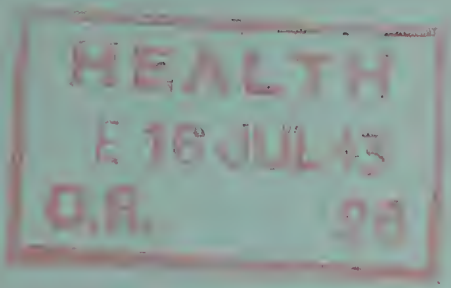


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Annual Report  
OF THE  
Medical Officer of Health  
FOR THE YEAR  
1942

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including the  
Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector and  
the Meteorological Report.



# Borough of Weston - super - Mare

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## **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE, 1941-42.**

Chairman : Councillor W. B. CRAIG.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor MRS. D. A. WHEELER.

Alderman B. T. BUTTER	Councillor A. J. HEYBYRNE
Alderman P. E. CULLING	Councillor C. W. N. MARTIN
Alderman J. J. LEAVER	Councillor W. C. SLEEP
Councillor Mrs. M. BROWN	Councillor J. C. WALKER
Councillor E. M. SMITH	Councillor G. WOOD

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor E. M. TREVOR, J.P.  
(till June 22nd, 1942).

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor R. HOSKEN, J.P.  
(from July 8th, 1942).

## **Maternity and Child Welfare Committee, 1941-42.**

Chairman : Councillor Mrs. M. BROWN.

All Members of the Public Health Committee, with the  
following co-opted ladies :—

LADY DAVIES	MRS. M. E. LUCAS
MRS. J. L. EDMUNDS	MRS. A. MACFARLANE
MRS. A. J. HEYBYRNE	Mrs. PAGE

## **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH.**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH AND SUPERINTENDENT OF  
ISOLATION HOSPITAL :

CYRIL G. EASTWOOD, M.D., ch.B., B.Sc., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

ASSISTANT MEDICAL OFFICER :

J. H. P. DAVIES-SAGE, M.B., ch.B. (till April 8th, 1942).

J. L. EMERY, M.B., ch.B., D.C.H. (from May 1st, 1942).

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR :

H. W. BLADON, F.S.I.A., cert.R.S.I.

ABBATOIR SUPERINTENDENT AND SANITARY INSPECTOR :

I. A. STEPHENSON, cert.R.S.I. & S.I.J.B., MEAT & FOODS  
cert.R.S.I.

SANITARY INSPECTORS :

C. E. URCH, cert.R.S.I., MEAT & FOODS cert.R.S.I.

W. W. WHITE, cert.R.S.I. & S.I.J.B. exam., MEAT & FOODS  
cert.R.S.I., cert. INST. OF PUBLIC CLEANSING (salvage), Cert.  
LONDON CITY & GUILDS (Plumbing), cert. RUTHERFORD  
COLLEGE (Building Construction).

CHIEF HEALTH VISITOR :

MISS D. DALLAWAY, S.R.N., S.C.M., S.I. cert.R.S.I.

HEALTH VISITORS :

MRS. A. M. BISHOP, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert.

MISS G. M. HARVEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert.

MISS A. H. MITCHELL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert.

MRS. D. STITSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N. (till May 20th, 1942).

MISS M. HEAFEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.cert.  
(from November 9th, 1942).

MISS B. M. WEBBER, S.C.M., L.C.A.T.M.

MATRONS :

Isolation Hospital : MISS A. MANEY, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Borough Maternity Home : MRS. I. D. GOODWIN, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Glenelg Sick Bay and Emergency Isolation Hospital :

MRS. M. C. McCLELLAND, S.R.N.

Tralee Sick Bay : MISS E. W. SYMONDS, S.R.N., S.C.M.

Neva Road Nursery : MRS. M. M. MILLER, S.R.N.

Beaconsfield Road Nursery : MISS L. SIMS, cert.N.S.D.N.

CLEANSING STATION SISTER :

MISS WARD, S.R.N. (till May, 1942).

MRS. E. N. SALISBURY, S.R.N. (from June, 1942).

SUPERINTENDENT OF NURSERIES : MISS G. W. THOMAS.

WARDENS :

Prospect Hall Nursery : MISS E. M. WEEKS.

Good Shepherd Nursery : MISS H. THOMPSON  
(till October 14th, 1942).

MRS. P. SHACKLEFORD (from October 14th, 1942).

Milton Hill Nursery : MISS D. JONES.

Corton Nursery : MRS. BAKER.

CHIEF CLERK : MISS D. B. POWELL.

SECRETARY TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH :

MISS E. NICHOLLS.

NURSING STAFF : 39.

CLERICAL, NURSING AND MISCELLANEOUS : 54.



THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH,  
THE TOWN HALL,  
WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF  
THE BOROUGH OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my second Annual Report : the fiftieth in a continuous series since Dr. Hitchins' Report for the year 1893. This may, therefore, be termed the " Golden Jubilee " of the Department of Public Health and, had the times been more propitious, it would have afforded a fitting opportunity for an extensive report and survey of half a century's development.

The year 1942 was my first complete year of office at Weston-super-Mare and, as far as the pressure of work under war-time conditions would allow, I have been laying the foundations of future development. My conception of a Public Health Department is that it should be considerably more than an administrative organisation for giving effect to certain laws, by-laws, orders, rules and regulations. I consider that it should be pre-eminently an organisation in which dynamic health projects are initiated, where research work is undertaken and whence springs the general impulse to positive health of the community which it serves.

Before any Department can function adequately, according to these concepts, an effective administrative organisation must exist, since this is the instrument which is used to give effect to the ideas already mentioned. My principal pre-occupation during the year, therefore, has been the forging of this instrument, that is, the effective re-organisation and bringing up to date of the office section and general business aspects of the Department. An adequate clerical staff has been assembled, necessary re-arrangements within the offices have been effected, modern filing and recording systems have been commenced and the Dictaphone has been installed.

After internal organisation, the next logical step in a planned public health project must be, I think, the establishment of satisfactory relations with the public and outside persons generally with whom the Department has to deal. The work of the Department requires to be made known to the ratepayers and other members of the public, and also the services which it has to offer. Judicious newspaper publicity is one means to this end, and this was secured continuously throughout the year. This drive for improved public relations was completed by the publication of a departmental hand-book, showing clearly what services are provided and how they may

be obtained. For the more specific information of medical practitioners in the town, a brief, separate guide was issued.

I have given attention also to the reception which persons get from the Department when calling personally, making enquiries by telephone, or addressing us by letter, because it is clearly in the public interest that all who make contact with the Department of Public Health should feel assured that their business will receive immediate attention, careful consideration, and that a real effort will be made to give them assistance. It is not only important that these things should be done, but the enquirer or correspondent must be made to *feel* that his business is being handled in this way.

In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health, this Report is, however, once more presented in a much briefer form than would ordinarily be the case, and it has not been possible to give a full account of a year which has been one of the busiest in the history of the Department. After the war, I am hoping that it will be possible to publish a fuller account of the very considerable work which has gone on and the expansion which has taken place.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CYRIL G. EASTWOOD,

Medical Officer of Health.

## Statistical Summary, 1942.

AREA (including foreshore) ... 7,006 Acres

### POPULATION :

1931 census ... 31,706

Registrar-General's estimate for 1942 ... 41,250

### LIVE BIRTHS :

Male. Female. Total.

Legitimate ... 271 277 548

Illegitimate ... 24 22 46

295 299 594

BIRTH RATE : 14.4.

### STILL BIRTHS :

Male. Female. Total.

Legitimate ... 8 7 15

Illegitimate ... 4 — 4

12 7 19

STILL BIRTH RATE (per 1,000 total births) : 31.9.

### DEATHS :

Male. Female. Total.

264 325 589

DEATH RATE : 14.2

#### PUERPERAL DEATHS :

From puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	0
From other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	0
					<hr/>
Total	...	...	...	...	0
					<hr/>

#### INFANT MORTALITY (Deaths of infants under one year of age) :

Rate for all infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	...	33·5
Rate for all legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	...	25·9
Rate for all illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	...	108·7

#### OTHER DEATHS :

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	...	79
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	2

## I. Vital Statistics.

REGISTERED BIRTHS.—After allowing for inward and outward transfers, the Registrar-General credited the Borough with 594 live births for 1942 ; 295 were males and 299 females. Of these, 46 were illegitimate (24 males and 22 females). The registered number of still births was 20 (13 males and 7 females) of which number 4 males were illegitimate.

The birth rate for 1942 was 14·4 per 1,000 of the population, which is higher than that for last year (11·8) but below that for the country as a whole (15·8).

DEATHS.—647 deaths were registered as having occurred in the Borough during the year. After deducting the deaths of 132 non-residents and adding the deaths of 74 normal residents which took place outside the Borough, the net total comes to 589 Weston deaths. Of these, 264 were males and 325 females.

The number of deaths in the four quarters of the year were :—First quarter 166, second quarter 162, third quarter 136 and fourth quarter 125.



The following tables show the causes of death and the sex and age distribution of deaths :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.					1942.	
					Males.	Females.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	Total	589	264	325
1 Typhoid and para-typhoid fevers	...				—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	...	...	...		1	2
3. Scarlet fever	...	...	...		—	—
4 Whooping cough	...	...	...		—	—
5. Diphtheria	...	...	...		—	1
6 Tuberculosis of respiratory system	...				12	8
7 Other forms of tuberculosis	...	...	...		1	1
8 Syphilitic diseases	...	...	...		2	—
9 Influenza	...	...	...		3	2
10 Measles	...	...	...		—	—
11 Acute poliomyelitis and polio-encephalitis	...	...	...		—	—
12 Acute infantile encephalitis	...	...	...		—	—
13 Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (M.), uterus (F.)	...	...	...		3	5
14 Cancer of stomach and duodenum	...				11	4
15 Cancer of breast	...	...	...		—	7
16 Cancer of all other sites	...	...	...		24	25
17 Diabetes	...	...	...		1	—
18 Intra-cranial vascular lesions	...	...	...		18	51
19 Heart disease	...	...	...		71	92
20 Other diseases of the circulatory system...					4	6
21 Bronchitis	...	...	...		12	10
22 Pneumonia	...	...	...		14	10
23 Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...		4	6
24 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	...				5	1
25 Diarrhœa under 2 years	...	...	...		1	1
26 Appendicitis	...	...	...		2	1
27 Other digestive diseases	...	...	...		4	13
28 Nephritis	...	...	...		5	9
29 Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	...				—	—
30 Other maternal causes	...	...	...		—	—
31 Premature births	...	...	...		2	1
32 Congenital malformations, birth injuries, infantile diseases	...	...	...		4	6
33 Suicide	...	...	...		1	0
34 Road traffic accidents	...	...	...		2	1
35 Other violent causes	...	...	...		33	30
36 All other causes	...	...	...		24	32
Special causes (included in No. 36 above)—						
Small-pox	...	...	...		—	—
Deaths of Infants under 1 year		Total...	...		9	11
		Legitimate	...		8	7
		Illegitimate	...		1	4



# SEX AND AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS, 1942.

Ages at Death in Years.			Males	Females.	Total.
Under 1	...	...	9	11	20
1 to 9	...	...	5	6	11
10 to 24	...	...	9	8	17
25 to 44	...	...	22	22	44
45 to 64	...	...	66	58	124
65 to 69	...	...	37	31	68
			—148	—136	—284
70 to 74	...	...	37	39	76
75 to 79	...	...	38	48	86
80 to 84	...	...	22	49	71
85 to 89	...	...	16	34	50
90 to 94	...	...	4	13	17
95 to 99	...	...	1	3	4
			—118	—186	—304
			<u>266</u>	<u>322</u>	<u>588</u>

INFANT MORTALITY.—The number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age, registered during the year, was 20 (9 male and 11 female). Of these, 1 male and 4 female were illegitimate. These 20 deaths represent an infant mortality rate of 33·7.

INQUESTS.—Inquests held by the Coroner in the Borough during the year numbered 33, of which 19 were upon residents of Weston-super-Mare and 14 upon non-residents. The causes of death in respect of residents are set out in the following table :—

Causes of Death.			Males.	Females.	Total.
Natural Causes	...	...	6	2	8
Strangulation	...	...	—	—	—
Accidents : Burns	...	...	—	—	—
Falls	...	...	3	2	5
Falls from height			—	—	—
By moving machinery			1	—	1
Poisoning : Coal gas	...	...	1	1	2
Motor Car fumes			—	—	—
During Operations	...	...	—	—	—
In Motor Vehicles	...	...	—	—	—
By Motor Vehicles	...	...	2	1	3
Suicide : Drowning		...	—	—	—
Hanging	...	...	—	—	—
Poisoning : Coal gas			—	—	—
Motor Car fumes			—	—	—
Jumping from height			—	—	—
Found Drowned	...	...	—	—	—
			<u>13</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>19</u>

## II. General Health Services, etc.

In April a new scheme was adopted by the Council, whereby urgent pathological specimens could be examined locally by the Pathologist at the General Hospital, without the necessity of sending every specimen to the County Laboratory at Taunton: a procedure which had been fraught with considerable delay, particularly since the outbreak of war. This service proved of the utmost value to the Department and to doctors in the town in securing early information about pathological specimens submitted for diagnostic purposes. Later in the year the service was amplified by the issue to every practising physician in the town of a pathological outfit of tubes, slides and other appliances, complete in a small box, the contents of which will be renewed from time to time by the Department.

**PUBLICITY AND HEALTH EDUCATION.**—A publicity campaign, by means of posters and the distribution of leaflets, was maintained throughout the year, different subjects being chosen each month. The greatest effort was in connection with immunisation against diphtheria, and a note upon this appears later in the Report.

**SHAMPOO CENTRE.**—In April, the Shampoo Centre, which had been opened in 1941 to deal with verminous infestation of the head, was closed down, and the work transferred to the Cleansing Station at the Isolation Hospital.

**ISOLATION HOSPITAL.**—During the year, Dr. Emery, Assistant Medical Officer, gave courses of lectures to nurses at the Isolation Hospital, which was a very useful new departure in their training.

**THE SCABIES' ORDER, 1941.**—This Order, made at the end of 1941, gave wide powers to deal with verminous persons in certain circumstances and, notwithstanding its title, related to other forms of infestation, and not to scabies only. The machinery of this Order was set in motion in respect of twenty-three different persons during the year, but in no case was it necessary to resort to drastic measures, as each patient finally agreed to co-operate with the Department.

**COMMON COLD EXPERIMENT.**—With the onset of winter, an experiment in the control of the common cold was commenced, as this complaint is a frequent source of absence from work, and it was considered that any attempt to reduce the incidence of this complaint was useful. Sixty volunteers from amongst the staff of the Town Hall were obtained for the purposes of the experiment, and were divided into three groups, two of which received vitamin-containing capsules, the third acting as a control. All the volunteers undertook to keep records, on a prepared form, of various symptoms associated with the common cold, absences from work, etc.

The results will not be available until about the end of April, 1943, and will be discussed in the Report for that year.

SPECIAL WAR-TIME ACTIVITIES.—Work in connection with Civil Defence, the Government Evacuation Scheme and many other aspects of war-work continued throughout the year, and the full story will make interesting reading after the war is over.

The following statistics show the work carried out at the various institutions and centres attached to the Department, excluding those which are noted under other headings subsequently :—

Isolation Hospital : Admissions during 1942	...	...	104
Glenelg Sick Bay : Admissions during 1942	...	...	134
Glenelg Auxiliary Isolation Section : Admissions during 1942	...	...	109
Tralee Sick Bay : Admissions during 1942	...	...	144
Cleansing Station : Patients treated during 1942	...	...	905
Shampoo Station : Patients treated during 1942 (till March)	...	...	397
Minor Ailments' Clinic : Attendances during 1942 (excluding May 21—July 1st)	...	...	2,935

All the other general health services were maintained throughout the year.

III. Infectious Disease.

The following table sets out particulars of infectious disease occurring in the Borough during the year :—

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Isolation Hospitals.	Total Deaths.
Pneumonia	22	—	24
Scarlet Fever	33	44	—
Diphtheria	18	21	1
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid Fever)	14	13	—
Dysentery	18	—	—
Pemphigus	—	1	—
Measles	10	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	4	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	6	8	3
Erysipelas	11	7	—
Tonsillitis	—	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	3	1	—
Whooping Cough	23	1	—
Hæmolytic Throat	—	1	—
Vaccinia	—	1	—
Observation	—	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	—	—
	Total Cases Notified.	Total Deaths.	
Tuberculosis : Respiratory	29	20	
Non-respiratory	6	2	



In April there was a small outbreak of para-typhoid fever, fortunately of a mild type. The original source of infection could not be absolutely identified, but all the evidence pointed to a possible carrier employed at a canteen, in which all the affected persons habitually took their meals.

In dealing with this outbreak, I received very gratifying co-operation from the County Medical Officer and Dr. Scott, Medical Officer of Health of Axbridge Rural District. We were also fortunate in securing the services of Dr. Degen of the Harvard University-American Red-Cross Epidemiological Unit, who was stationed in this country.

On one or two occasions during the year there were mild outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting, sometimes accompanied by transient jaundice. The outbreaks never assumed alarming proportions, nor were individuals severely ill as a rule. Every effort was made to investigate this complaint, and medical practitioners in the town gave the fullest co-operation in this respect, but it did not prove possible to arrive at any useful conclusion in spite of the quite extensive work that was done.

## IV. Diphtheria Immunisation.

The usual publicity by means of leaflets distributed in the town was continued during the year. In the autumn, the publicity campaign was intensified by the exhibition of posters throughout the town and in public conveyances, the wide distribution of special leaflets and the exhibition of lantern slides at local cinemas. This special drive was run in conjunction with the Government's publicity efforts, which were taking place at the same time. The following table shows the progress of immunisation against diphtheria :—

	Immunisation completed during 1942.	
	Under 5 yrs.	5-15 yrs.
Number of children ... ..	559	520
Percentage of children in each of the two age groups ... ..	9.93%	11.07%



## V. Maternity and Child Welfare.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS.—Accommodation is provided for normal confinements at Allandale Maternity Home, while abnormal cases are admitted to the Maternity Ward of the General Hospital.

The Council have an arrangement whereby an Obstetric Consultant can be called in by any doctor in respect of a case of abnormal pregnancy or labour.

The following table shows the admissions to maternity beds at Allandale and the General Hospital :—

	Number of Beds.	Number of Patients admitted during 1942.
Allandale... ..	13	243
General Hospital Maternity Ward ... ..	5 (available to the Borough Council)	47

It is interesting to record that, on Boxing Day, triplets were born in Allandale Maternity Home.

HEALTH VISITING.—The following table shows the work of the Health Visitors during the year :—

	Infants under 1 year.			Children 1—5 yrs.	Ante-natal.			Boarded out Children.
	First Visits.	Other Visits.	Total.		First Visits.	Other Visits.	Total.	
Residents ...	528	2,844	3,372	6,665	291	424	715	341
Evacuees ...	58	411	469	2,309	36	102	138	—

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE ASSOCIATION.—The Council continued making an annual grant to the Maternity and Child Welfare Association, which provides Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Clinics as follows :—

Ante-Natal Clinics held at The Church Institute, The Boulevard : Residents, Tuesday at 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and Evacuees, Wednesday at 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.

Infant Welfare Clinics held at The Church Institute, The Boulevard : Residents, Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m. and Friday at 11.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon. Evacuees, Thursday at 11.0 a.m. to 12.0 noon.

At the Congregational Schoolroom, Moorland Road, Thursday, 2.30 p.m. to 4.0 p.m.

The following table summarises the work done during the year :—

### BOULEVARD CENTRE.

#### INFANT WELFARE.

Total number of children who first attended during 1942 :

(a) Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	260	(33)
(b) Over 1 year	...	...	...	...	98	(30)
Total number of children under 5	...	...	...	...	718	(155)
Total attendances	...	...	...	...	3,702	(572)
Total attendance of mothers	...	...	...	...	3,508	(549)
Newly joining mothers	...	...	...	...	318	(62)
Children who were under 1 year on Dec. 31st, 1942	...	...	...	...	220	(23)

#### ANTE-NATAL.

Weston mothers (excluding 19 out of district)	...	1,248
Evacuee mothers	...	347
Number of attendances	...	1,623
POST-NATAL	...	9

### MOORLAND ROAD CLINIC.

Children who first attended during 1942 :

(a) Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	} 101
(b) Over 1 year	...	...	...	...	
Total number under 5	...	...	...	...	248
(a) Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	113
(b) Over 1 year	...	...	...	...	135
Total attendances	...	...	...	...	1,544

Figures in brackets represent evacuees.

### SPECIAL CLINICS AND WELFARE PROVISIONS.

Attendance of children under 5 at Dental Clinic	...	22	(7)
Attendance of mothers recommended for dental treatment	...	68	(13)
Mothers who attended Dental Clinic	...	59	(12)
Number of patients provided with dentures	...	8	

DENTAL TREATMENT.	Mothers.		Children.	
	Weston.	Evacuees.	Weston.	Evacuees.
Extractions	173	61	30	13
Fillings	58	4	6	—
Dentures : Upper	3	1	—	—
Lower	3	1	—	—
Scalings	—	—	3	1
Anæsthetics : Ethyl Chlor.	12	3	—	—
Anæsthetics : N <sub>2</sub> OxO <sub>2</sub>	43	15	—	—

Number of children under 5 referred to Orthopædic Clinic	69
Number of patients provided with orthopædic appliances	6
Number of patients admitted to Bath Orthopædic Hospital	1
Number of children referred to Massage Clinic ... ..	8
Number of children referred to Artificial Sunlight Clinic ...	22
Cases where special nourishment was supplied ... ..	—

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS, ETC.—Two cases of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred during the year.

During the year thirteen cases of children under five years of age were referred to the County Oculist on account of defective vision or squint.

## VI. War-time Nurseries.

During the year an additional full-time nursery was brought into operation, and Prospect Hall part-time nursery was discontinued.

Two courses of instruction for the Child Care Reserve were organised and run in connection with the Department of Public Health, and our nurseries formed the field of practical instruction at these courses. The two full-time nurseries were affiliated with the National Society of Children's Nurses, and a scheme of training probationers for the Diploma of that Society was inaugurated, four probationers being in training at the close of the year.

Administrative supervision was also exercised over the London County Council's Evacuated Children's Nursery in the town.

During the winter months, the Assistant Medical Officer and Superintendent of Nurseries organised a study-group of people interested in child health and welfare, which met regularly at one of the full-time nurseries.

Regular medical inspection was instituted at all the nurseries during the year, records of each child being kept upon a form similar to that ordinarily used for school medical inspection.

The following table shows the work of the nurseries :—

Nursery.	Average Daily Attendance.
Neva Road (full time) ... ..	29*
Beaconsfield Road (full time) ... ..	19*
Prospect Hall (part time) ... ..	19
The Good Shepherd Hall (part time) ... ..	24
Milton Hill (part time) ... ..	16
The Corton (part time) ... ..	13

\* In the last quarter of 1942 and since the end of the year, these averages have risen considerably.



## VII. Sanitary Work.

### CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF  
THE BOROUGH OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year ended  
31st December, 1942.

### COURT AND STATUTORY PROCEEDINGS.

No Court proceedings have been taken during the year.

Formal statutory notices were served under the Public Health Act in respect of 13 premises. Two houses were redrained by the Council in default of the owners and the cost of the works recovered over a period by signed agreement with the respective owners.

### HOUSING.

Owing to war conditions and the difficulties as to labour and materials, only a few recorded inspections were made. The more urgent and dangerous defects were immediately attended to. 19 Beach Road was represented for demolition. An objection to demolition was laid by the owners and you accepted an "undertaking" under the Housing Act, 1936, that this house should not be used for human habitation. Four houses were repaired under the Housing Act, two formally and two informally ; 89 houses were repaired under the Public Health Act.

### VERMIN INFESTATION.

The number of houses found to be infested by vermin was 23.

Treatments—Primary	...	...	...	19
„ Secondary	...	...	...	24
„ Preventive	...	...	...	6
„ to rooms	...	...	...	112

The methods of treatment used for disinfestation are :—  
(1) Ris ; (2) Killgercide ; (3) Zaldecide ; (4) the use of fumigants in conjunction with the above preparations.

Three premises were fumigated by a firm of London Contractors by H.C.N.

### OVERCROWDING.

Owing to the numbers of voluntary and official evacuees and war workers in the town there has been a certain amount



of latitude allowed in respect of overcrowding. Many difficulties have been overcome by re-allocation of individuals to different rooms and by arrangements for others to sleep out. So far as I am aware, no bad cases have arisen. Owing to frequent movements, it has been somewhat difficult to keep in touch with changing conditions.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

In only one case was it necessary to require owners to abate a nuisance.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

Rather less trouble was experienced with regard to rat infestation than in 1941, but infestation by mice has continued. Close attention has been paid to these matters. The treatment of your refuse tips is still being attended to by your contractor. The number of premises treated was 69. The baits used were Squill biscuits, Arsenic and Barium Carbonate. In suitable cases gassing with Cyanide dust was undertaken.

FACTORIES, SHOPS, ETC.

FACTORIES AND WORKPLACES.				No. of Inspections.	Written Notices.
Factories with mechanical power ... ..				353	51
Factories without mechanical power ... ..				125	14
TOTAL ... ..				478	65

				Defects Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness ... ..				30	30	—
Overcrowding ... ..				1	1	1
Unreasonable temperature ... ..				—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation ... ..				1	1	—
Drainage of floors ... ..				1	1	—
Sanitary conveniences—						
Insufficient ... ..				—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective ... ..				—	—	—
Not separate for sexes ... ..				—	—	—
Other offences ... ..				—	—	—

Varley Pumps, Ltd., Market Lane, was certified as to means of escape in case of fire.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

Sanitary conveniences provided	...	...	...	...	2
Washing facilities provided	...	...	...	...	2

## HOLIDAY CAMPING GROUNDS.

There was practically no holiday camping in Weston-super-Mare during the year. Only four were licensed for the period.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are 9 fish friers in the town. Of these, 4 are licensed annually. A gut scrapers' business is carried on at the Public Abattoirs and there is a fellmongers' business established at Rickett's Lane, Worle.

## SUMMARY OF VISITS

by Sanitary Inspector's Staff (not including Health Visitors).

Total number of inspections and visits ...	...	...	7,179
Nuisances or complaints ...	...	...	938
Work ordered ...	...	...	662
Work in progress ...	...	...	457
Drainage tests visits :—			
Smoke tests at existing buildings ...	...	...	17
Water tests at existing buildings ...	...	...	31
Inspection of concrete in connection with drains ...	...	...	43
Dwelling houses :—			
Number inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts ...	...	...	206
Number inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	501
Houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulation, 1925 ...	...	...	29
Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	...	...	56
Number of housing inspections <i>re</i> (miscellaneous matters) ...	...	...	6
Housing inspections <i>re</i> infectious diseases ...	...	...	5
Number of houses inspected <i>re</i> vermin ...	...	...	46
Number of houses re-inspected <i>re</i> vermin ...	...	...	59
Number of houses inspected <i>re</i> overcrowding ...	...	...	24
Number of houses re-inspected <i>re</i> overcrowding ...	...	...	18
Number of re-inspections after service of notices P.H.A., 1875 ...	...	...	88
Number of houses <i>re</i> Housing (Overcrowding) Act, 1935 ...	...	...	—
Interviews with agents, owners, contractors, etc. ...	...	...	1,293
Factory inspections ...	...	...	353
Workshop inspections :—			
Bakehouses ...	...	...	85
Outworkers ...	...	...	—
Shops Act inspections ...	...	...	20
Cowsheds and farm inspections ...	...	...	145
Dairies and milkshops inspections ...	...	...	108
Common lodging house inspections ...	...	...	30

Ice cream shops and premises inspections	...	...	51
Butchers' shops and Abattoir inspections	.	...	1,522
Food shops and food premises inspections	...	...	915
Offensive trades inspections	...	...	106
Tents, vans and sheds inspections	...	...	12
Inspections <i>re</i> manure pits	...	...	6
Inspection of premises where animals are kept	...	...	68
Inspection of public and private refuse tips	...	...	31
Refuse bin inspections	...	...	37
Smoke abatement inspections	...	...	8
Public buildings inspections (including licensed amusement premises)	...	...	21
Rat infestation inspections	...	...	291
Petrol spirit licensing inspections	...	...	64
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	1,239

#### WORK DONE.

Houses closed under " Undertaking "	...	...	1
Houses repaired (Housing and Public Health Acts)	...	...	89
Houses repaired informally under Housing Acts	...	...	2
Houses repaired formally under Housing Acts	...	...	2
Houses cleansed and decorated	...	...	6
Rooms repaired	...	...	54
Roofs repaired or stripped and retiled or reslated	...	...	21
Floors relaid or repaired	...	...	25
Skirtings, etc., renewed or repaired	...	...	6
Fire grates renewed or repaired	...	...	16
Doors repaired or new ones fixed	...	...	10
Windows renewed or repaired	...	...	14
Ventilations and/or lighting improved	...	...	2
Food stores provided or improved	...	...	—
Plastering of walls and/or ceilings repaired or stripped	...	...	12
Rain water spouting or guttering repaired or renewed	...	...	8
Rain water cisterns repaired, abolished or new fixed	...	...	2
Walls pointed and repaired or rendered	...	...	3
External plaster repaired or re-rendered	...	...	2
Chimney stacks and flues repaired or rebuilt	...	...	8
Earth banks removed from houses	...	...	1
Sites concreted under living rooms	...	...	1
Floor timbers treated for dry rot	...	...	—
Sanitary sinks provided	...	...	5
Yards paved, repaired or relaid	...	...	8
Tenants required to amend conditions	...	...	52
Refuse bins provided	...	...	12
Overcrowding :—Houses found to be overcrowded	...	...	1
Cases abated	...	...	4

Factory and Workshops : See page 15 Factory and Workshops Report.



Cowsheds :—

Contraventions ... ..	4
Trade premises :—Sanitary conditions improved ...	14
Accumulations of manure or offensive matter removed	2
Animals and poultry :—Nuisances abated ... ..	8
Rat infestation :—Premises dealt with ... ..	68

Drainage :—

Drains relaid at existing houses ... ..	9
Drains cleared and cleansed or repaired ... ..	148
Premises supplied with additional drainage ... ..	6
Additional drains provided ... ..	14
New drain inspection chambers provided ... ..	9
Premises supplied with additional water closets ...	7
Additional water closets provided ... ..	14
Water closets or urinals repaired or reconstructed ...	35
New water closet pedestals fixed ... ..	20
New water closet flushing cisterns fixed ... ..	11
New lavatory basins fixed ... ..	4
Soil pipes and drain ventilators repaired ... ..	2
Soil pipes and drain ventilators fixed ... ..	2
Waste pipes fixed, repaired or reconstructed ...	16
Nuisances from overflowing cesspools abated ...	6
Accumulations of rubbish removed ... ..	29

Smoke or fumes :—Nuisances abated or complaints dealt with ... ..	—
---	---

Shops Act :—Washing facilities provided ... ..	2
--	---

Sanitary conveniences provided ... ..	2
---------------------------------------	---

Fire extinguishers provided ... ..	2
------------------------------------	---

Infectious Disease Disinfections :—

	Rooms.	Articles.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	40	530
Diphtheria ... ..	13	180
Tuberculosis ... ..	49	513
Non-notifiable ... ..	64	11,087
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ... ..	4	85
Typhoid ... ..	16	199
Poliomyelitis ... ..	—	6
Erysipelas ... ..	2	69
Impetigo ... ..	—	15
Cancer ... ..	8	113
Scabies ... ..	24	12,745
Vermin ... ..	215	445
Dry Rot ... ..	1	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	436	25,987
	<hr/>	<hr/>



## DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS.

At the end of the year negotiations were being made with the County Authorities for the taking of additional milk samples.

### PARTICULARS OF REGISTER.

Number of producers on the Register ... ..	24
Number of distributors, divided as follows :— (including 29 who trade from outside the Borough)	
A. Distributors only ... ..	83
B. Distributors who are also producers ... ..	14
(A producer is only included as a distributor if he definitely makes a business of selling his milk by retail to individual customers.)	
Number of licences given to Graded Milk Distributors :—	
Supplementary Certified Tuberculin Tested ...	2
Supplementary Pasteurised ... ..	1
There is only one accredited milk producer in the district.	
The following milk samples were submitted to the County Bacteriologist for examination :—	
Pasteurised (4 passed, 1 unsatisfactory) ... ..	5
Accredited milk ... ..	—
Herd milk for the presence of tubercle bacilli ...	15
(No tubercle bacilli found)	

### MEAT AND FOOD CONTROL.

The standard of cleanliness in food premises has been fairly good, but pressure has been necessary in some cases where neglect has taken place.

Quite a large amount of work has been undertaken in connection with canned and other foods which had become unsound or doubtful by reason of damage or prolonged storage. Lighter food packings and changed transport labour personnel has been an important factor in this matter. The “ points system ” of food distribution has again encouraged traders to use this department for the issue of surrender notes for the recovery of “ point ” values.

The number of premises on the register for the preparation of pickled, preserved, etc., meats is 44.

### PUBLIC ABATTOIRS.

The Abattoir is the official “ slaughtering place ” for a large area which has a population of approximately 250,000.

During the year there was a widespread outbreak of Foot-and-Mouth Disease in this slaughtering area. The Government Veterinary Officials, being well satisfied with the operational methods and the efficiency of inspection at the

Abattoirs, decided, instead of killing contacts on the farm sites, to bring them to your premises for slaughter and dressing under more cleanly and hygienic conditions than would be possible at the point of contact. Incidentally this resulted in increased revenue to the Council and extra hours of work for the Superintendent and inspectional staff.

Allocation of animals for slaughter could be improved as regards time spread, but this would mean an alteration of markets in the area. The alteration of market days has in fact been considered by the appropriate authorities and has been deemed to be impracticable under war conditions.

I am informed that the Ministries concerned are very satisfied with the methods and co-operation of your Abattoir officials in the slaughtering of animals for distribution in this slaughtering area. This is largely due to the efficiency and energy of your Superintendent and the Inspectional Staff.

The following salvage was handed on to the Ministry of Food's agents for recovery purposes :—

		Tons.	cwt.	qrs.	lbs.
Condemned meat	... ..	64	6	1	18
Non-edible offals	... ..	305	14	2	12
TOTAL		370	1	0	2

#### ANIMALS KILLED AT THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

	1935.	1936.	1937.	1938.	1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.
Pigs ... ..	4,528	4,718	4,413	3,964	3,653	6,021	4,875	1,026
Sheep ... ..	11,902	11,283	9,943	10,696	12,919	47,238	46,089	50,384
Calves ... ..	795	914	939	835	857	3,448	5,977	7,839
Beasts ... ..	1,440	1,432	1,313	1,183	1,365	7,252	10,215	7,856

Difference from the year 1941 :

Cattle.	Calves.	Sheep.	Pigs.
—2,359	+1,862	+4,295	—3,849

The income from slaughtering tolls charges and rentals were as follows :—

1938	...	...	£959	13	9
1939	...	...	£1,160	6	11
1940	...	...	£3,718	17	0
1941	...	...	£4,107	9	2
1942	...	...	£3,859	11	4
			+ over pre-control year 1939 =		
			£2,699	4	5
Rentals Abattoir	...	...	£222	2	6
Rentals Cattle Market	...	...	£380	2	6
Market Tolls	..	...	£92	6	1

The following tables show the percentage of animals killed which are found by ordinary inspection to be affected in some degree with tuberculosis and other diseases :—

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, including Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed ... ..	7,856	7,839	50,384	1,026
Number inspected ... ..	7,856	7,839	50,384	1,026
ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.				
Whole carcasses condemned	9	—	35	5
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	812	4	610	17
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis ... ..	10·4%	·05%	1·2%	2·0%
TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.				
Whole carcasses condemned	130	1	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1,791	10	—	244
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis ... ..	24·5%	·14%	—	23·8%



1942. DISEASED OR INJURED MEAT CONDEMNED AT THE ABATTOIRS.

[illegible]



## DISEASED MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The total weight of diseased, unsound or injured meat and organs condemned was :—

	Tons. cwt. qrs. lbs.				Tons. cwt. qrs. lbs.			
Tuberculosis :—								
<b>Beef</b> and organs, including								
130 carcasses and 81								
quarters ... ..	53	19	0	7				
<b>Pigs</b> and organs, including								
1 carcase ... ..	1	5	3	18				
<b>Veal</b> , 1 carcase ... ..		1	1	20				
<hr/>								
Total weight of tuber- culous meat ... ..					55	6	1	17
Non-Tuberculous Meat :—								
<b>Beef</b> and organs ... ..								
	6	19	2	12				
<b>Pigs</b> , including 5 carcasses								
and organs ... ..		6	2	11				
<b>Sheep</b> and <b>Lambs</b> , including								
35 carcasses and organs ...	1	13	2	14				
<b>Veal</b> ... ..				20				
<hr/>								
Total weight of non- tuberculous meat ... ..					9	0	0	1
<hr/>								
Total weight of all con- demned meat ... ..					64	6	1	18
<hr/>								

## UN SOUND FOODS CONDEMNED IN THE TOWN.

	Cwt. qrs. lbs.		
<b>Meat.</b> —Beef, Pork, Lamb or Mutton ... ..	2	3	7½
Fish—various ... ..	8	2	9
Brawn ... ..		1	0½
Bacon ... ..			4
<hr/>			
	11	2	21
<hr/>			

Sausages (Beef or Pork)	...	...	...	2 cwt. 0 qrs. 11 lbs.
Meat Pies	...	...	...	14 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Onions	...	...	...	14 „
Pikelets	...	...	...	706
Fish Cakes	...	...	...	27
Cheese	...	...	...	18 lbs.
Flour and Cereals	...	...	...	1 qr. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Cereals	...	...	...	16 pkts.
Pickles	...	...	...	11 bottles
Cake	...	...	...	1 qr. 20 lbs.
Sauce	...	...	...	3 bottles
Eggs	...	...	...	151
Jams	...	...	...	5 jars
<i>Canned Goods.</i>				
Meat—various	...	...	...	413 cans
Fish	...	...	...	78 „
Vegetables	...	...	...	249 „
Milk	...	...	...	198 „
Soups—various	...	...	...	14 „
Fruit—various	...	...	...	133 „
Broth	...	...	...	5 „
Total				<u>1,090 „</u>

#### FOODS DAMAGED BY ENEMY ACTION, JUNE, 1942.

In addition to normal action referred to above, a very large amount of food material was rendered unfit by enemy action. For the purpose of dealing with these materials, I worked in co-operation with the Ministry of Food Salvage Officers. The inspection and judgment as to the soundness or otherwise of affected foods is the responsibility of your Sanitary Inspector, but the ultimate disposal of foods which are not destroyed as unfit is carried out by the Ministry of Food Salvage Officers, for disposal either by distribution to suitable institutions or for animal feeding.

I report that the following foods were so damaged by fire, contamination and decomposition that they had to be condemned as being unfit for consumption.

Much other food than that shown on the list was so damaged by fire, etc., that it had to be dumped. I can only estimate that several thousands of canned goods were thus disposed of.

A large quantity of affected food was requisitioned by the Government Salvage Officers for further scrutiny, sorting and salvage at their depots.

By working in close co-operation with the Ministry of Food Salvage Officers it was possible to salvage quite a lot of

food material for refining and animal feeding purposes. I very much appreciate that the affected traders, in spite of their unfortunate positions, gave me every possible help in carrying out this work.

Since the Weston-super-Mare attack I have had to deal with quite a large amount of doubtful or unsound food stuffs which had been damaged in other areas and which has been distributed in the town through Government agents. This class of goods needs a very careful scrutiny. I am sometimes advised by the Ministry as to where and when this class of goods will be delivered.

Fruit (various sizes) ...	...	...	178
Meat ...	...	...	18
Fish ...	...	...	3
Vegetables ...	...	...	6,908
Soups ...	...	...	696
Milk ...	...	...	129
Unspecified ...	...	...	2,436

Total ... 10,368 cans of food

#### Glass Packed Foods.

Jams, syrup, etc., of various sizes ... 578 jars

#### Bread, Cake, Biscuits, etc.

Cake ... 57 lbs.

Biscuits ... 5 cwt. 3 qrs. 11 lbs.

Cartons or packets of Cereals ... 67

#### Various Cereals, etc.

Flour ... 3 qrs. 2 lbs.

Rice ... 24 lbs.

#### Various Food Powders. Tons. cwts. qrs. lbs.

Ice cream powder, egg powder and substitutes, etc. ... 3 2 0 16

Sausage rusks ... 6 3 0

#### Fats.

Lard, butter, margarine, etc. ... 2 4 $\frac{3}{4}$

Sugar ... 3 2 0

Meat ... 3 1 6

Sausages ... 2 16

Bacon ... 7

Ham ... 18

Cheese (trimmings) ... 1 4

Tea, coffee, cocoa ... 2 22

Beans, lentils, etc. (estimated) ... 2 14

Dates ... 1 13

Nuts ... 10

Fish ... 8

Chocolate ... 384 bars or slabs

Milk ... 4 quarts

(Various minor items are not included in this list.)



## FOOD DECONTAMINATION.

The training of the food squads has been proceeded with and the original squad members became very efficient. A public demonstration on practical methods was given at the "Treatment Site," the Cattle Market, on Sunday, May 10th, 1942, and at which Medical Officers of Health, Sanitary Inspectors and A.R.P. Officials from many parts of the country attended. The Food Squads' work was well done and they were complimented by the visitors.

The Squad "basic number" or "unit establishment" has now been increased from 14 to 44, which gives a "Personnel Establishment" of 88. In spite of repeated endeavours by canvassing, etc., I have been unable to recruit to above 62. Repeated exercises have been held and the squad members have reached such a state of efficiency that there would be no difficulty of going into action in case a gas attack developed in the area. It is very unfortunate that many squad members do not regularly attend the exercises and demonstrations.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACTS.

Mr. H. F. Hardiman, the Somerset County Food and Drugs Inspector, has kindly supplied the following statement of the samples of foods, drugs and drinks taken for analysis by the Public Analyst during 1942 :—

Sample taken.	Genuine.			Adulterated.		
Milk ... ..	10	...	...	1	prosecution ; fine £5 ; Advocate's fee £3 3s. 0d.	
Eye lotion ... ..	—	...	...	2	caution	
Fish Paste ... ..	1	...	...			
Meat Paste ... ..	1	...	...			
Canned Soup ... ..	2	...	...			
Sweetening Tablets ... ..	1	...	...			
Butter ... ..	2	...	...			
Lard ... ..	1	...	...			
Gin ... ..	1	...	...			
Cider Vinegar ... ..	1	...	...			
Orange Squash ... ..	1	...	...			
Cod Liver Oil ... ..	1	...	...			
Ammo. Tinc. Quinine ... ..	2	...	...			
Tinc. of Iodine ... ..	1	...	...			
Easton's Syrup ... ..	1	...	...			
Camphorated Oil ... ..	1	...	...			
Throat Pastilles ... ..	1	...	...			
Glycerine Substitute ... ..	1	...	...			

I have to thank the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, the Mayor and Members of the Council, the

Medical Officer of Health and other Members of your Health Department Staff and other Council Officials who have so kindly co-operated in the work of the Department.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

H. W. BLADON,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

### XIII. Meteorology.

The following table summarises the meteorological observations for the year 1942. The observations are taken at Clarence Park, the Town Hall and Madeira Cove.

Monthly Results of Climatological Observations, 1942.

1942. MONTH.	AIR TEMPERATURES.							Mean Relative Humidity (9 a.m.).	Mean Amount of Cloud (9 a.m.).	RADIATION.  Min. on Grass.	RAIN.		SUN.		Mean Barometer Reading (9 a.m.)
	MEANS.										Amount, Inches.	No. of Days with .04 ins. or more.	Number of Hours.		
	EXTREMES.														
	9 a.m.	Min.	Max.	Range.	Mean.	Min.	Max.								
	...	36.6	32.1	42.0	9.9	37.1	21.3							49.1	
January	...	34.7	29.4	39.6	10.2	34.5	17.8	48.2	8.7	25.0	.19	3	58.8	30.107	
*March	...	42.5	37.4	50.0	12.6	43.7	26.5	60.0	8.2	33.8	1.75	8	26.2	29.914	
†April	...	50.5	42.6	58.4	15.8	50.5	36.1	65.4	6.1	37.3	1.05	6	162.7	29.881	
May	...	53.7	45.6	60.0	14.4	52.8	36.9	66.4	6.1	41.1	4.54	14	206.7	29.881	
‡June	...	60.5	51.5	67.3	15.8	59.4	43.4	85.0	5.0	46.3	.38	1	273.3	30.115	
July	...	62.4	55.3	68.3	13.0	61.8	46.5	77.0	6.0	52.5	1.94	9	208.7	29.989	
August	...	63.4	56.2	69.5	13.3	62.9	46.0	88.2	6.8	53.3	3.60	16	151.6	29.922	
September	...	59.6	52.6	63.9	11.3	58.2	39.9	70.0	6.5	49.9	2.01	12	152.6	29.917	
October	...	52.8	48.5	58.6	10.1	53.6	37.8	67.2	8.0	45.6	2.77	13	87.1	29.960	
November	...	42.5	37.5	48.7	11.2	43.1	25.2	57.1	7.7	32.9	1.27	7	56.9	30.267	
December	...	46.4	43.1	50.9	7.8	47.0	35.0	58.3	7.6	39.6	3.31	17	32.7	29.883	
Means and Totals§	...	50.5	44.3	56.4	12.1	50.4	34.3	66.0	7.0	40.5	2.2	117§	1,466.8§	29.983	

\*18 days only for sunshine record.

†28 days only for sunshine record.

‡29 days only. No records on 29th June for barometer dry minimum and grass minimum thermometer or humidity due to air raids.





